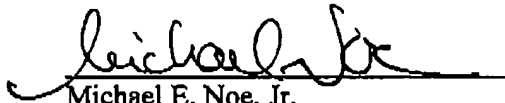


**REMARKS**

Applicant certainly appreciates the allowance of Claims 12 – 16, 18, and 19, and the suggestions offered by the Examiner to overcome the rejections of and objections to Claims 2, 6 – 8, 11, and 17. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten Claim 1 with a revised version of canceled Claim 6, and Claim 11 with the language of Claims 1 and 9.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or any other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Noe, Jr.

Reg. No. 44,975

BRACEWELL & GIULIANI LLP

P.O. Box 61389

Houston, Texas 77208-1389

(512) 472-7800

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS